

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K.T. Gallo et al. Attorney Docket No.: MSFT121165
Application No.: 09/776,375 Art Unit: 2623 / Confirmation No: 8078
Filed: February 2, 2001 Examiner: D.R. O'Steen
Title: INTEGRATION OF MEDIA PLAYBACK COMPONENTS WITH AN
INDEPENDENT TIMING SPECIFICATION

RESPONSE

Seattle, Washington 98101

May 1, 2007

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be re-examined.

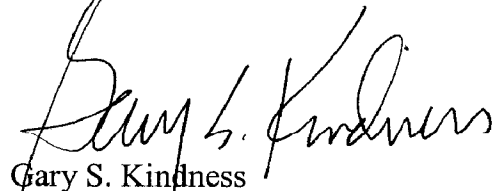
The February 22, 2007, Office Action in the above-identified application rejected all of the claims remaining in this application (1-54) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,701,383 (Wason) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0112247 (Horner). As noted to Examiner O'Steen in a telephone conversation subsequent to receipt of the Office Action and more recently, Horner was filed February 8, 2002, over a year after the filing date of the above-identified application (February 2, 2001). Horner relies on an earlier-filed provisional patent application (60/267,848). Assuming for purposes of this response that the provisional application provides adequate support for the use of Horner in the foregoing rejection, applicants further point out that **the filing date of the Provisional Application No. 60/267,848 (February 9, 2001) is after the filing date of the present application (February 2, 2001).** As a result, Horner is not a valid reference. Consequently, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-54 based on the teachings of Wason and Horner be withdrawn and this application allowed.

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If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary S. Kindness", is written over the printed name and firm name.

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